

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Wally Herger (R-CA) issued the following statement in response to reports that budget negotiations to fund the government for the remainder of FY 2011 have not resulted in an agreement. If an agreement is not reached by midnight, the federal government will shut down, leaving only essential services operational.

I'm disappointed by the failure to reach a budget agreement and I know that many Americans are frustrated. The process resulting in this imminent shutdown began a year ago when Congressional Democrats held huge majorities in both the House and Senate, yet by failing to pass a budget last year, they failed in the most basic responsibility of governing. Throughout Northern California, working families sit down and figure out their budget. They make hard choices and live within their means because it's the responsible thing to do. Washington should be expected to do nothing less.

The American people have repeatedly sent President Obama and Congress a clear message – Washington must cut spending and return to fiscal responsibility. Nearly fifty days ago I proudly supported House Republicans in passing a budget for the rest of FY 2011 that cut discretionary spending by \$61 billion. Unfortunately, Senate Democrats and President Obama have blocked these necessary reductions at every turn. Yesterday they even blocked a bill that would have funded our troops for the rest of the year, cut \$12 billion in spending and kept the government running for another week. That is why we find ourselves at the brink of a government shutdown.

I hope that President Obama and congressional leaders can reach an agreement that will keep our government running in a way that honors the wishes of the American people – one that significantly reduces spending and takes a real step toward confronting our debt crisis. The massive and growing national debt threatens American jobs and our economic prosperity. I am committed to reducing spending and tackling our debt crisis so that we may deliver a prosperous future to our children and grandchildren. This starts with securing the largest possible cuts in that FY 2011 budget, but that will just be the beginning. Republicans have introduced a budget blueprint that would cut federal spending by \$6 trillion over the next ten years, put our nation back on the path toward a balanced budget, and create an estimated one million jobs next year alone. I look forward to supporting this commonsense budget and restoring fiscal sanity in Washington.”